DigitNow Film Converter Instructions

Contents

Getting Started: 2

Prepare Media to Record 3

Record: 6

Transfer Files 8

More Information: 9

Getting Started:

The DigitNow Film Converter enables 8mm & Super 8 reel digitization, meaning that it is designed to convert your personal film reels to digital files. Oak Creek Public Library provides the converter, take-up reel, reel shaft plates (x2), SD card, power cord, USB/mini-USB connector cable, TV cable, cleaning cloth, and blower brush. Please note this device has been tested for use with Windows only and may not work with Apple products or other operating systems.

You will need:

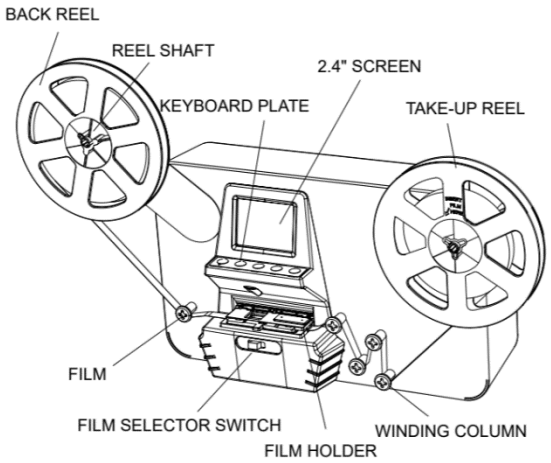
- An 8mm reel or Super 8 reel of up to 9" in diameter (this device scans video only, no sound)
- Storage space
    - If you do not have enough space on your PC, you can purchase USB flash drives or hard drives from stores like Amazon, Target, Walmart, OfficeMax, or Best Buy.
    - Alternatively, you can upload your finished product to the Cloud (e.g., Google Drive or Dropbox).

What you can do with the DigitNow Film Converter:

- Easily convert 8mm and Super 8 films frame-by-frame to 20 fps MP4 digital movie files.
- Adjust the frame, exposure, and sharpness.
- Play back scanned video on the built-in 2.4" LCD screen or view on a TV/monitor via the included TV cable.
- Store and preserve your treasured memories for later viewing.

Scanner Parts

- Film holder
- Keyboard plate
- LCD screen
- Reel shafts + arms
- Take-up reel
- Winding column

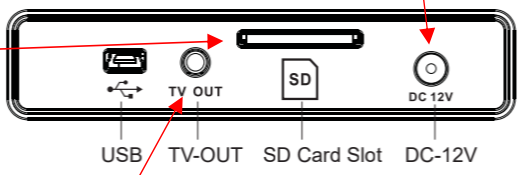


Buttons

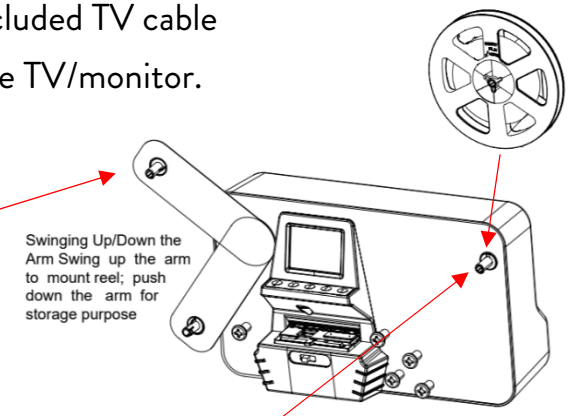
1. Power button: press to turn the device on, hold down to turn the device off
2. Menu (Mode): access menu settings
3. Left / Right: move between options that appear on the LCD screen
4. OK (Start/Stop): select an option from the LCD screen as well as start and stop converting
5. Film Selector Switch: change between 8MM film and Super 8 film

Prepare Media to Record

1. Plug one end of the power cord into a power outlet and the other into the DC-12V slot located on the back of the converter.
2. Make sure that the SD card provided by the library is already inserted into the back of the device.



3. If you would like to view output on a TV/monitor instead of the built-in LCD screen, plug the black end of the included TV cable into the back of the device and the yellow end into the TV/monitor.
4. Swing the left reel arm up until it stops. Swing the arm back down before storing the device.



5. Slide the center of the provided take-up reel onto the right reel shaft.

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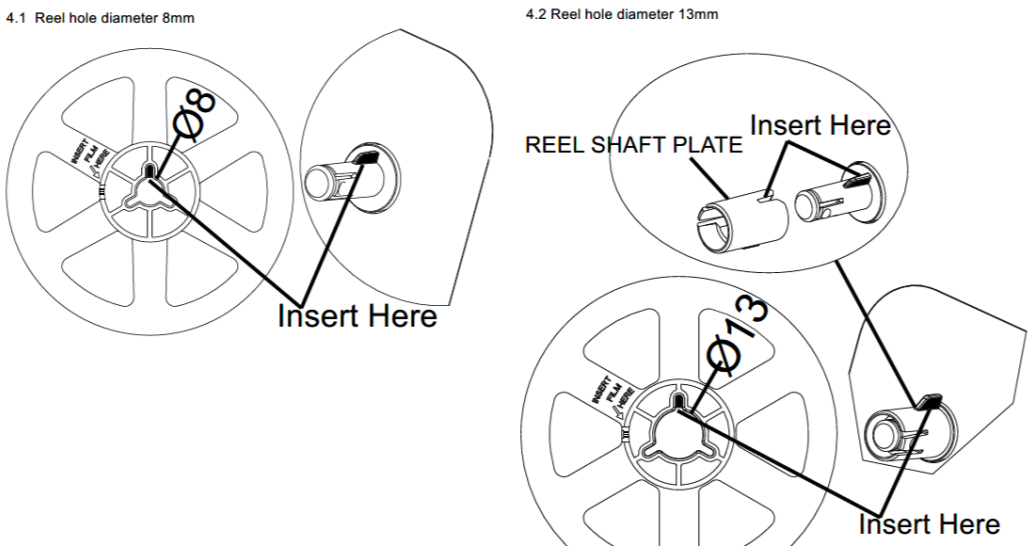
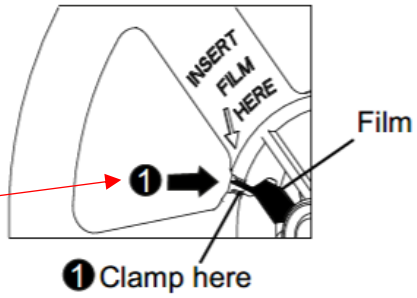
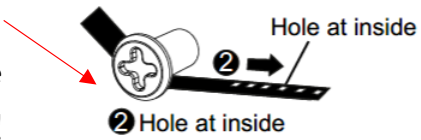
6. Depending on the size of your film reel, you may need to use a reel shaft plate. If the reel hole has a diameter of 8mm, then a shaft plate is not needed. If the reel hole has a larger diameter, like 13 mm, then a shaft plate is needed. You can test this by sliding the center of the reel over the left reel shaft. If it does not fit snugly enough to keep the reel from falling off, then use one of the provided reel shafts plates. Which plate you use depends on the size of your reel. See the diagram below to see how a reel by itself fits over the reel shaft as well as how a reel plate fits over the reel shaft followed by a reel:



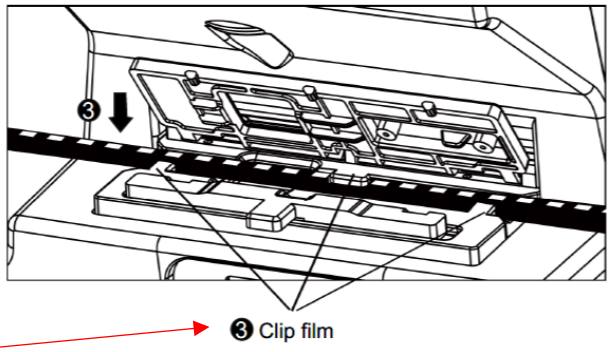
7. Install the film:
   a. Pull out a few feet of the film from your reel to give it enough slack, then insert/clamp the loose end of the film into the take-up reel to hold it in place (see diagram). Note that the film's holes should be facing away from you and toward the machine. Some of the slack can also be loosely wound around the take-up reel.



   b. On the front of the converter, thread the film from your reel under the first winding column on the left. The white arrows and solid lines printed on the front are your guide!



c. Open the film holder by pushing the tab labeled “Slide” to the left. The cover opens via a spring-loaded mechanism.

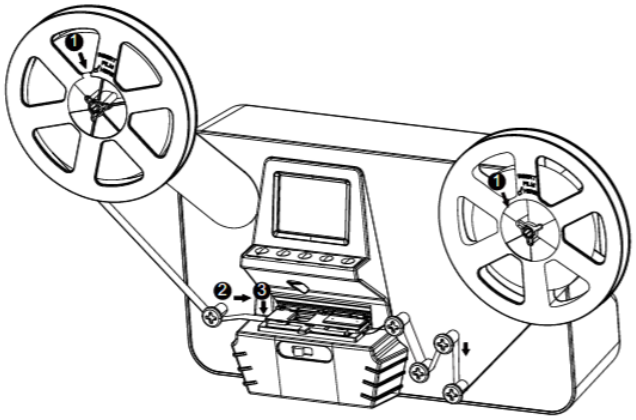


d. Feed the film into the film holder so that it fits under the tabs and through to the other side, as outlined in the diagram.

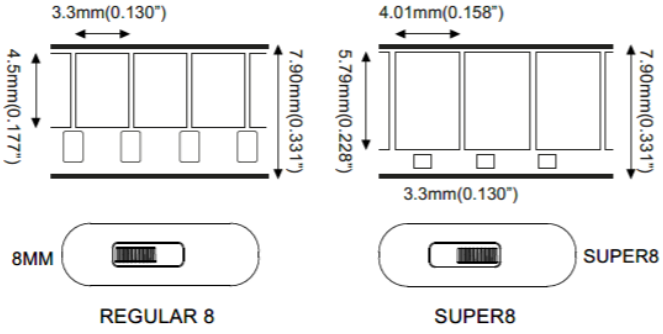
e. Close the film holder by pressing down on the cover until it clicks back into place.

f. Wind the film through the winding columns to the right of the film holder. Once again, the solid white lines printed on the front are your guide! Thread the film over the first column, under the second, over the third, and under the fourth.

g. Wind any remaining slack onto the take-up reel. The final product should mimic the following diagram:



h. Use the following diagram to help determine which type of film you have as well as which position to set the film selector switch (8mm/regular vs. Super 8):



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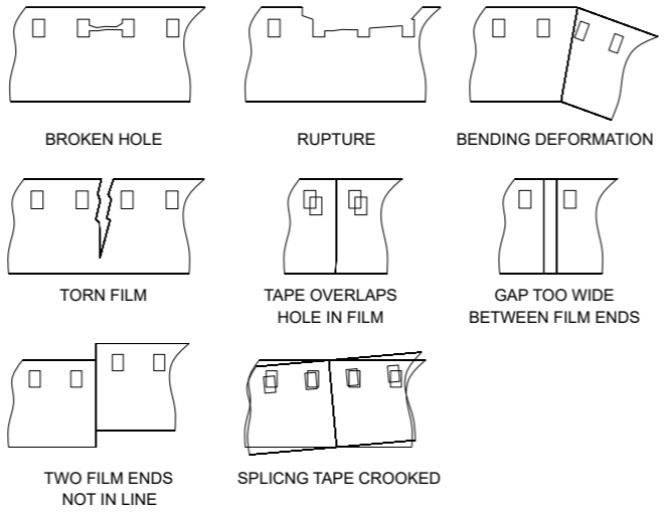
Record:

1. Power on the converter by pressing the Power button.

2. Press the Menu button, select Record, and press the OK button. The screen will remind you to select 8mm or Super 8 by changing the position of the film selector switch.

3. Press the OK button to start recording. While recording is in progress, a red dot will blink in the upper-left corner of the LCD screen and the converter will pull the film through the tray. We recommend recording for about 10-20 seconds to test the quality.

4. Press the OK button to stop recording at any time. If the converter is not pulling the film through properly, double-check that it was prepared according to the above instructions and everything—the attachments and the film itself—fits snugly. If the issue persists, check how well preserved the film is; note that degraded film like that pictured in the following diagram is unable to be converted:



5. When the recording is stopped, press the Menu button and then press the Left or Right buttons to select Playback. Press the OK button twice to play back the recorded video. Press the Menu button and use the Left or Right buttons to select either Return (to the menu) or Delete (the recording) by pressing the OK button. Press the Menu button twice to return.

6. If things do not look quite right during play back, you have the option to press the Menu button to bring up the menu and make various adjustments for your next recording.

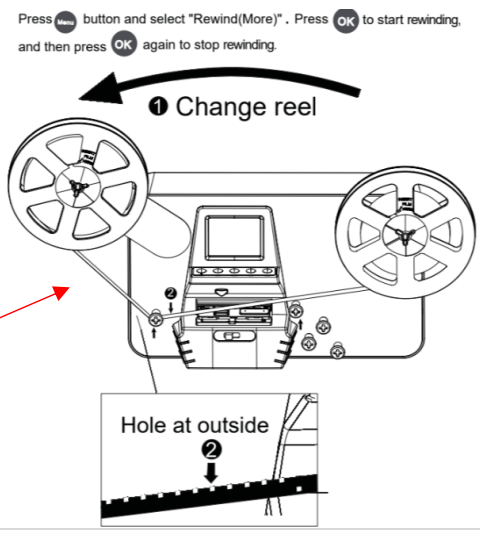
a. Press the Left or Right buttons to navigate to Film Type. Press the OK button, then the Left or Right buttons to navigate between MoviePositive or MovieNegative depending on the type of film you have. Press the OK button to make your selection and return to the menu.

b. Press the Left or Right buttons to navigate to Frame ADJ (adjustment). Press the OK button to enter this setting menu and adjust the X, Y, W axes of the register. Doing so will make things frame perfect. Press the Left or Right buttons to adjust one axis, then press the Menu button to save the configuration and move on to the next axis; repeat the process as needed. You can see a preview of what the frame looks like via the LCD screen or your TV/monitor. Press the Menu button to save your applied settings.

c. Press the Left or Right buttons to navigate to Exposure (EV) and/or Sharpness (SHP). Press the OK button to enter either setting menu and then use the Left or Right buttons to navigate between the options on the screen. Press the OK button to save your selection/s and return to the menu.

7. Begin a recording with these new settings in place. To see what it looks like at any time, stop the recording and enter Playback mode. If you do not like what you see, you can delete the recording from the next menu. If it looks good, you can continue recording. *Note that the length of time to record will be the same amount of time on your film reel. Also note that the converter will save the last setting you set when you shut it down. If desired, there is an option to return to the device's Default Settings via the Menu.

8. To rewind the film, follow this diagram:



Transfer Files

USB Upload:

This mode will allow you to access the SD card from a connected computer.

1. Make sure that the mini-USB plus is connected to the appropriate port on the back of the converter with the USB plug on the other end of the cable connected to the computer.

2. Press the Menu Button. Use the Left or Right buttons to select USB. Press the OK button.

3. Wait for the converter to connect to the computer. This may take a few seconds. When connecting, your computer will recognize the converter as an external device.
    a. On the computer, select any or all video (MP4) files from the converter and move them to the computer desktop. From there, you can move the files to your own connected USB flash drive/hard drive or upload to your cloud account.

4. When finished, disconnect the USB cable from the computer.

To a DVD Disc:

1. Insert a DVD disc into the computer.

2. Use the disc burning software of your choice to begin burning. You can burn your videos using programs like iMovie, Windows Live Movie Maker, and others.

3. Once you start the burning process, your video footage will begin to transfer to the disc.

4. Once the disc is completed, the DVD drive on the computer will pop open.

To a USB Drive:

1. Insert a USB drive into the computer.

2. Open My Computer and find your USB name in the left-hand menu.

3. Open the folder where you saved the original video file.

4. Find the video file and click-hold & drag it to your USB on the My Computer screen.

To a Google Drive or Dropbox:

1. Open up an Internet browser and log into your account at drive.google.com or www.dropbox.com

2. Both Google Drive and Dropbox have an 'upload' option that you can use to upload your video from your computer.

Notes:

If you see dust particles appearing on the screen during playback, remove your film from the converter and check to make sure that the film holder is clean. To do this, open the film holder by pushing the tab labeled "Slide" to the left. The cover opens via a spring-loaded mechanism. Use the provided microfiber cloth and/or blower brush to gently remove any particles. Resecure your film in the holder and begin the recording process again.

More Information:

These instructions have been curated from the DigitNow Film Converter User Manual. The Manual is also provided for your reference.